

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1.-59. (Cancelled)

- 60. (new) A method of manufacturing an intervertebral disc implant, comprising:
obtaining donor nucleus pulposus tissue; and
contacting the nucleus pulposus tissue with a hyperosmolar solution comprising a cross-linking agent.
- 61. (new) The method of claim 60 wherein the donor of the nucleus pulposus tissue is xenogenic to a recipient of the intervertebral disc implant.
- 62. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising decellularizing at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
- 63. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising denaturing at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
- 64. (new) The method of claim 63 wherein the denatured portion comprises proteins.
- 65. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising degrading at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
- 66. (new) The method of claim 65 wherein the degraded portion comprises nucleic acids.
- 67. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising extracting at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
- 68. (new) The method of claim 67 wherein the extracted portion comprises lipids.

69. (new) The method of claim 60 wherein obtaining comprises aseptic dissection of a donor intervertebral disc.
70. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising cross linking at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
71. (new) The method of claim 70 wherein the cross linked portion comprises collagen.
72. (new) The method of claim 70 wherein the cross linking is photo mediated.
73. (new) The method of claim 60 wherein the cross linking agent comprises a photo active dye.
74. (new) The method of claim 73 wherein the photo active dye comprises methylene blue.
75. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising lyophilizing the nucleus pulposus tissue.
76. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising pulverizing the nucleus pulposus tissue.
77. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising sterilizing the nucleus pulposus tissue.
78. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising disposing the nucleus pulposus tissue in an injection device.
79. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising combining the nucleus pulposus tissue with at least one growth factor or at least one cell.
80. (new) The method of claim 79 wherein the at least one cell is obtained from a recipient of the intervertebral disc implant.

81. (new) The method of claim 60 wherein the hyperosmolar solution comprises salt in a concentration of 1% - 50% w/v and sugar in a concentration of 1% - 50% w/v.
82. (new) A method of manufacturing an intervertebral disc implant, comprising:
obtaining donor nucleus pulposus tissue;
cross linking at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue; and
combining the nucleus pulposus tissue with an intervertebral disc regenerating material.
83. (new) The method of claim 82 wherein the donor of the nucleus pulposus tissue is xenogeneic to a recipient of the intervertebral disc implant.
84. (new) The method of claim 82 further comprising decellularizing at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
85. (new) The method of claim 82 further comprising denaturing at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
86. (new) The method of claim 85 wherein the denatured portion comprises proteins.
87. (new) The method of claim 82 further comprising degrading at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
88. (new) The method of claim 87 wherein the degraded portion comprises nucleic acids.
89. (new) The method of claim 82 further comprising extracting at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
90. (new) The method of claim 89 wherein the extracted portion comprises lipids.

91. (new) The method of claim 82 wherein obtaining comprises aseptic dissection of a donor intervertebral disc.
92. (new) The method of claim 82 wherein the cross linked portion comprises at least one protein of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
93. (new) The method of claim 92 wherein the cross linked portion comprises collagen.
94. (new) The method of claim 82 wherein the cross linking is photo mediated.
95. (new) The method of claim 82 wherein cross linking comprises contacting at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus with a photo active dye.
96. (new) The method of claim 95 wherein the photo active dye comprises methylene blue.
97. (new) The method of claim 82 further comprising lyophilizing the nucleus pulposus tissue.
98. (new) The method of claim 82 further comprising pulverizing the nucleus pulposus tissue.
99. (new) The method of claim 82 further comprising sterilizing the nucleus pulposus tissue.
100. (new) The method of claim 82 further comprising disposing the nucleus pulposus tissue in an injection device.
101. (new) The method of claim 82 wherein the intervertebral disc regenerating material comprises at least one growth factor or at least one cell.
102. (new) The method of claim 101 wherein the at least one cell is obtained from a recipient of the intervertebral disc implant.

103. (new) A method of manufacturing an intervertebral disc implant, comprising:
obtaining donor nucleus pulposus tissue;
reducing the immunogenic potential of the nucleus pulposus tissue;
cross linking at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue; and
sterilizing the nucleus pulposus tissue.
104. (new) The method of claim 103 wherein the donor of the nucleus pulposus tissue is xenogenic to a recipient of the intervertebral disc implant.
105. (new) The method of claim 103 wherein reducing comprises decellularizing at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
106. (new) The method of claim 103 wherein reducing comprises denaturing at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
107. (new) The method of claim 106 wherein the denatured portion comprises proteins.
108. (new) The method of claim 103 wherein reducing comprises degrading at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
109. (new) The method of claim 108 wherein the degraded portion comprises nucleic acids.
110. (new) The method of claim 103 wherein reducing comprises extracting at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
111. (new) The method of claim 110 wherein the extracted portion comprises lipids.
112. (new) The method of claim 103 wherein obtaining comprises aseptic dissection of a donor intervertebral disc.

113. (new) The method of claim 103 wherein the cross linked portion comprises at least one protein of the nucleus pulposus tissue.
114. (new) The method of claim 103 wherein the cross linked portion comprises collagen.
115. (new) The method of claim 114 wherein the cross linking is photo mediated.
116. (new) The method of claim 103 wherein cross linking comprises contacting at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus with a photo active dye.
117. (new) The method of claim 116 wherein the photo active dye comprises methylene blue.
118. (new) The method of claim 103 further comprising lyophilizing the nucleus pulposus tissue.
119. (new) The method of claim 103 further comprising pulverizing the nucleus pulposus tissue.
120. (new) The method of claim 103 wherein sterilizing comprises contacting the nucleus pulposus tissue with ethanol.
121. (new) The method of claim 103 further comprising disposing the nucleus pulposus tissue in an injection device.
122. (new) The method of claim 103 further comprising combining the nucleus pulposus tissue with an intervertebral disc regenerating material
123. (new) The method of claim 122 wherein the intervertebral disc regenerating material comprises at least one growth factor or at least one cell.

124. (new) The method of claim 123 wherein the at least one cell is obtained from a recipient of the intervertebral disc implant.